GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2421
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006
TALKS WITH RUSSIA IN HYDROCARBON SECTOR
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate bilateral talks with Russia on the issue related to hydrocarbon sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which talks are likely to commence?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c) : Issues relating to cooperation in hydrocarbon sector are discussed on a regular basis within the institutional framework existing between the two countries, i.e. the Indo-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation and the Indo- Russian Working Group on Energy.

Besides, following several high level interactions between the two countries, a lot of optimism had been generated regarding expansion of Indo-Russian cooperation in hydrocarbon sector. The two sides have been discussing enhancement in cooperation since October 2004, when the Indian Petroleum Minister visited Moscow. During the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Moscow in December 2005, priority tasks for further development of the Indo- Russian Strategic Partnership were identified, which included the decision to continue bilateral energy dialogue, concentrate on ways to enhance energy security, pursue opportunities for improving the process of diversification of energy supplies, and strengthening commercial energy partnerships in already identified and prospective oil and gas projects in India, Russia and third countries.